IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The status of the claims after amendment will be as follows:

Claims 1 - 3 (cancelled)

4. (original) A multi-layer sliding part prepared by a method comprising mixing 1 - 50 parts by volume of a Cu-plated solid lubricant powder with 100 parts by volume of a Cu-based alloy powder comprising 5 - 20 mass % of Sn and a remainder of Cu to form a mixed powder, sintering the mixed powder in a reducing atmosphere to form a sintered mass, pulverizing the sintered mass to form a powder, dispersing the powder formed by pulverizing on a metal backing plate, and sintering the dispersed powder to bond grains of the dispersed powder to each other and to the backing plate.

5. (original) A multi-layer sliding part as claimed in claim 4 wherein the metal backing plate comprises a steel plate.

6. (original) A multi-layer sliding part as claimed in claim 4 wherein the solid lubricant of the Cu-plated solid lubricant powder is selected from graphite, molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, and mixtures of these.

7. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a multi-

layer sliding part comprising:

(a) mixing 1 - 50 parts by volume of a Cu-plated solid lubricant powder with 100 parts by volume of a Cu-based alloy powder comprising 5 - 20 mass % of Sn and a remainder of Cu to form a mixed powder,

(b) sintering the mixed powder in a reducing atmosphere to form a sintered mass,

(c) pulverizing the sintered mass to form a powder ~~with a particle size of at most 300 μm~~,

(d) dispersing the powder formed by pulverizing on a ~~steel~~ metal backing plate,

(e) sintering the dispersed powder in a reducing atmosphere to bond grains of the dispersed powder to each other and to the ~~steel~~ metal backing plate to form a bearing metal layer on the ~~steel~~ metal backing plate, thereby forming a multi-layer material,

(f) pressing the multi-layer material to densify the bearing metal layer,

(g) annealing the multi-layer material after pressing in a reducing atmosphere, and

(h) pressing the annealed multi-layer material to increase the strength of the multi-layer material.

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the solid lubricant of the Cu-plated solid lubricant powder is selected from graphite, molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, and mixtures of these.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the sintering in step (b) is carried out at a temperature of 750 - 850°C.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the sintering in step (e) is carried out at a temperature of 800 - 880°C.

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the annealing in step ~~(f)~~ (g) is carried out at a temperature of 840 - 880°C.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A multi-layer sliding part as claimed in claim 4 wherein the Cu-based alloy powder consists of Cu and Sn.

14. (new) A multi-layer sliding part as claimed in claim 4 wherein the backing plate has first and second sides, and a bearing metal layer is formed on both of the sides.

15. (new) A swash plate for a compressor comprising a multi-layer sliding part as claimed in claim 4.

16. (new) A method as claimed in claim 7 including pulverizing the sintered mass in step (c) to form a powder with a

particle size of at most 300 μm.

17. (new) A method as claimed in claim 7 including pulverizing the sintered mass in step (c) to form a powder with a particle size of at most 100 μm.

18. (new) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the backing plate comprises a steel plate.

19. (new) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the backing plate has first and second sides, the method including forming a bearing metal layer on both of the sides.

20. (new) A method of manufacturing a multi-layer sliding part comprising:

(a) mixing 1 - 50 parts by volume of a Cu-plated solid lubricant powder with 100 parts by volume of a Cu-based alloy powder comprising 5 - 20 mass % of Sn and a remainder of Cu to form a mixed powder,

(b) sintering the mixed powder to form a sintered mass,

(c) pulverizing the sintered mass to form a powder,

(d) dispersing the powder formed by pulverizing on a metal backing plate, and

(e) sintering the dispersed powder to bond grains of the dispersed powder to each other and to the metal backing plate to form a bearing metal layer on the metal backing plate, thereby forming a multi-layer material.